Archie
COMICS
SEGA
WORLDS COLLIDE IN 5
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
ISSUE 243
ENDANGERED SPECIES
PART ONE
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PREVIOUSLY...

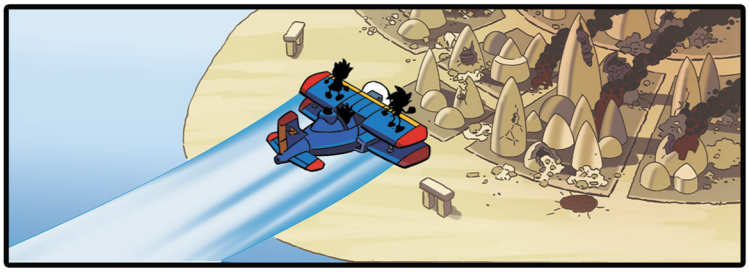
THE DEATH EGG STRIKES AGAIN!

Sonic the Hedgehog is leading Tails and Amy around the world as Team Fighters – a strike team for justice! They've been tracking down Dr. Eggman and the Death Egg II to stop his evil ways and rescue one of their own: the roboticized and weaponized Princess Sally Acorn.

Dr. Eggman planned on using the World Roboticizer aboard his Death Egg II to devastate the planet and bend it to his will. Sally inverted the beam, severely damaging the flying fortress, but turning herself into a robot slave. Dr. Eggman modified her into a killing machine and has used her to lead attacks across the world. Only Team Fighters has been able to stop her and keep Dr. Eggman on the run.

But Dr. Eggman will do anything to throw Team Fighters off the trail, including sending an invasion force to the Echidna homeland. The Echidnas have suffered through much as of late, leaving only a small population of survivors. It wouldn't take much to destroy their kind entirely.

It's a race against time as Sonic and Team Fighters must save this endangered species...



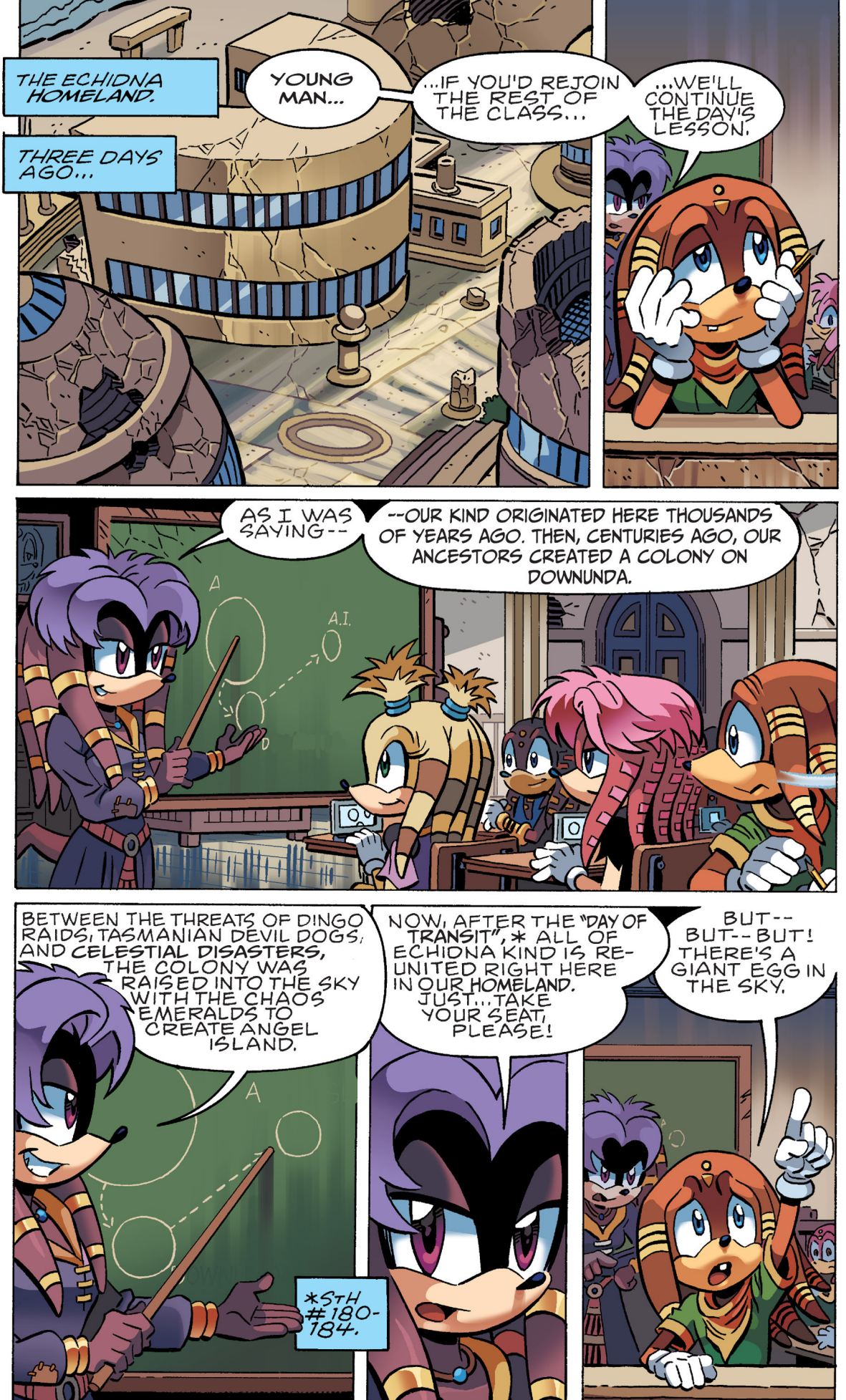
Who's Who

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SUPER SPEEDY HERO

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST FRIEND

AMY ROSE
MAGICAL HAMMER GIRL

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
THE LAST GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND


THE ECHIDNA HOMELAND.
THREE DAYS AGO...
YOUNG MAN...
...IF YOU'D REJOIN THE REST OF THE CLASS...
...WE'LL CONTINUE THE DAY'S LESSON.
AS I WAS SAYING--
--OUR KIND ORIGINATED HERE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THEN, CENTURIES AGO, OUR ANCESTORS CREATED A COLONY ON DOWNUNDA.
A
A.I.
BETWEEN THE THREATS OF DINGO RAIDS, TASMANIAN DEVIL DOGS, AND CELESTIAL DISASTERS, THE COLONY WAS RAISED INTO THE SKY WITH THE CHAOS EMERALDS TO CREATE ANGEL ISLAND.
*STH #180-184.
NOW, AFTER THE "DAY OF TRANSIT",* ALL OF ECHIDNA KIND IS RE-UNITED RIGHT HERE IN OUR HOMELAND. JUST...TAKE YOUR SEAT, PLEASE!
BUT-- BUT-- BUT! THERE'S A GIANT EGG IN THE SKY.

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Part One: ON THE BRINK

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COVER BY TRACY YARDLEY! AND MATT HERMS

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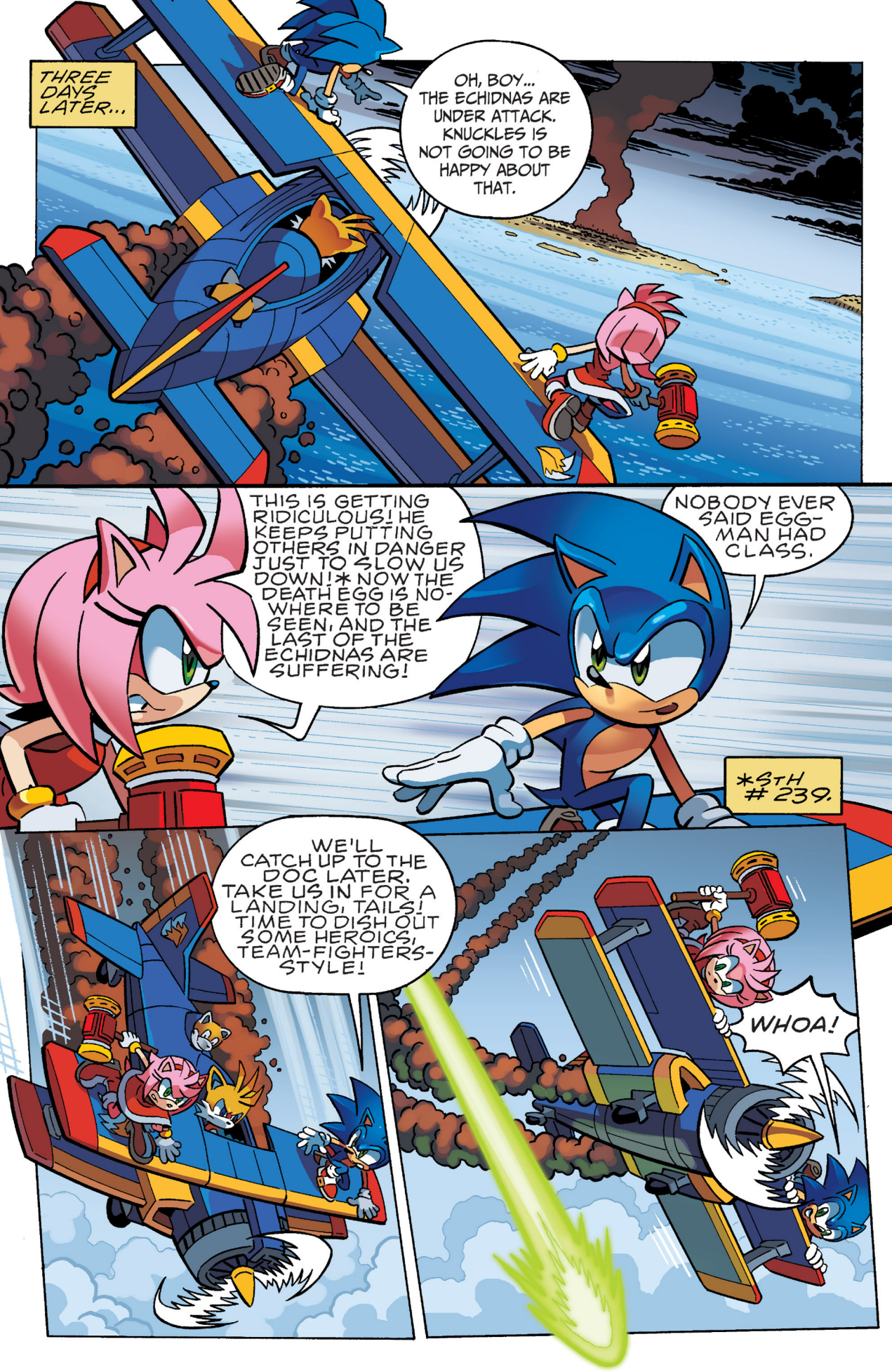
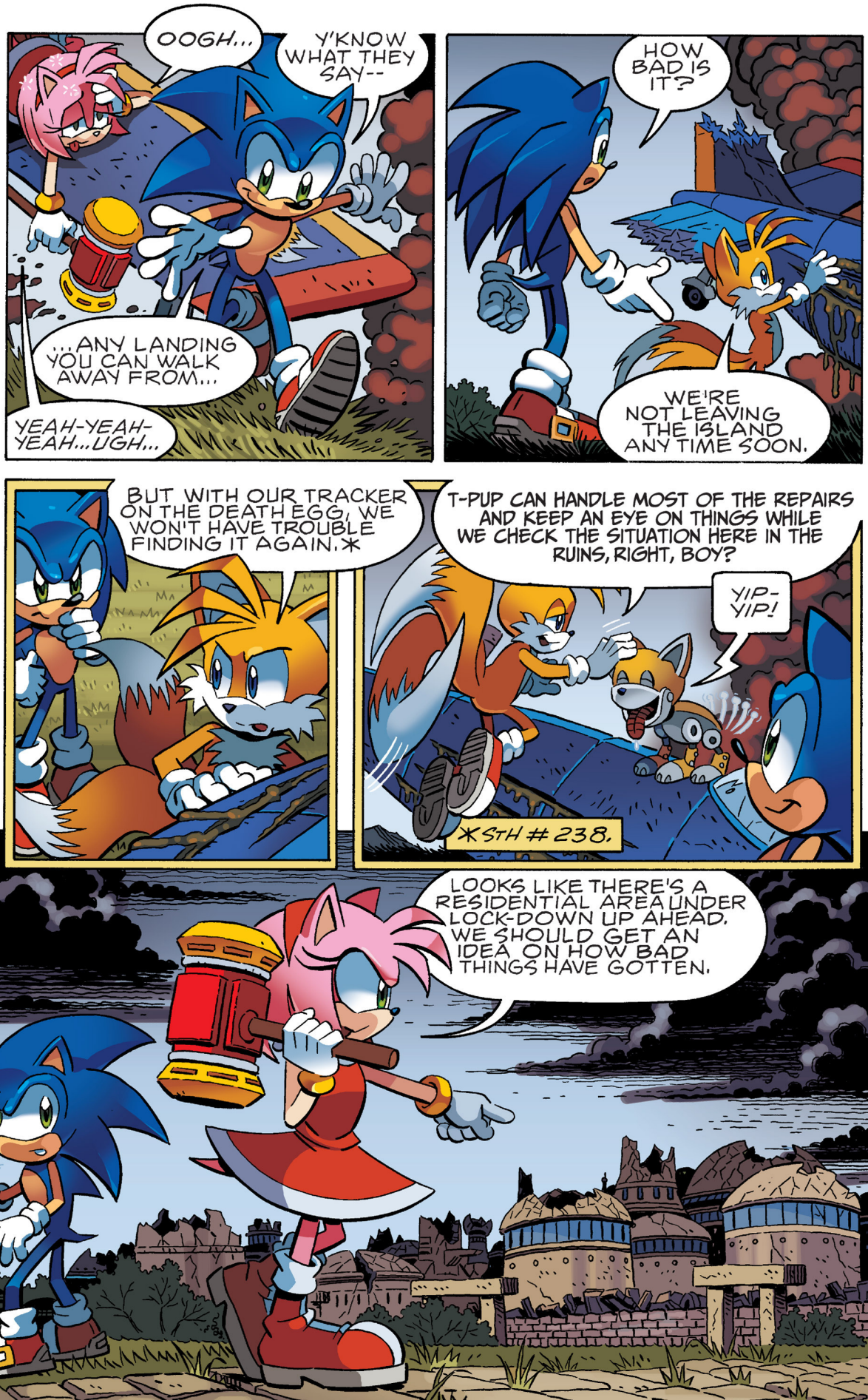
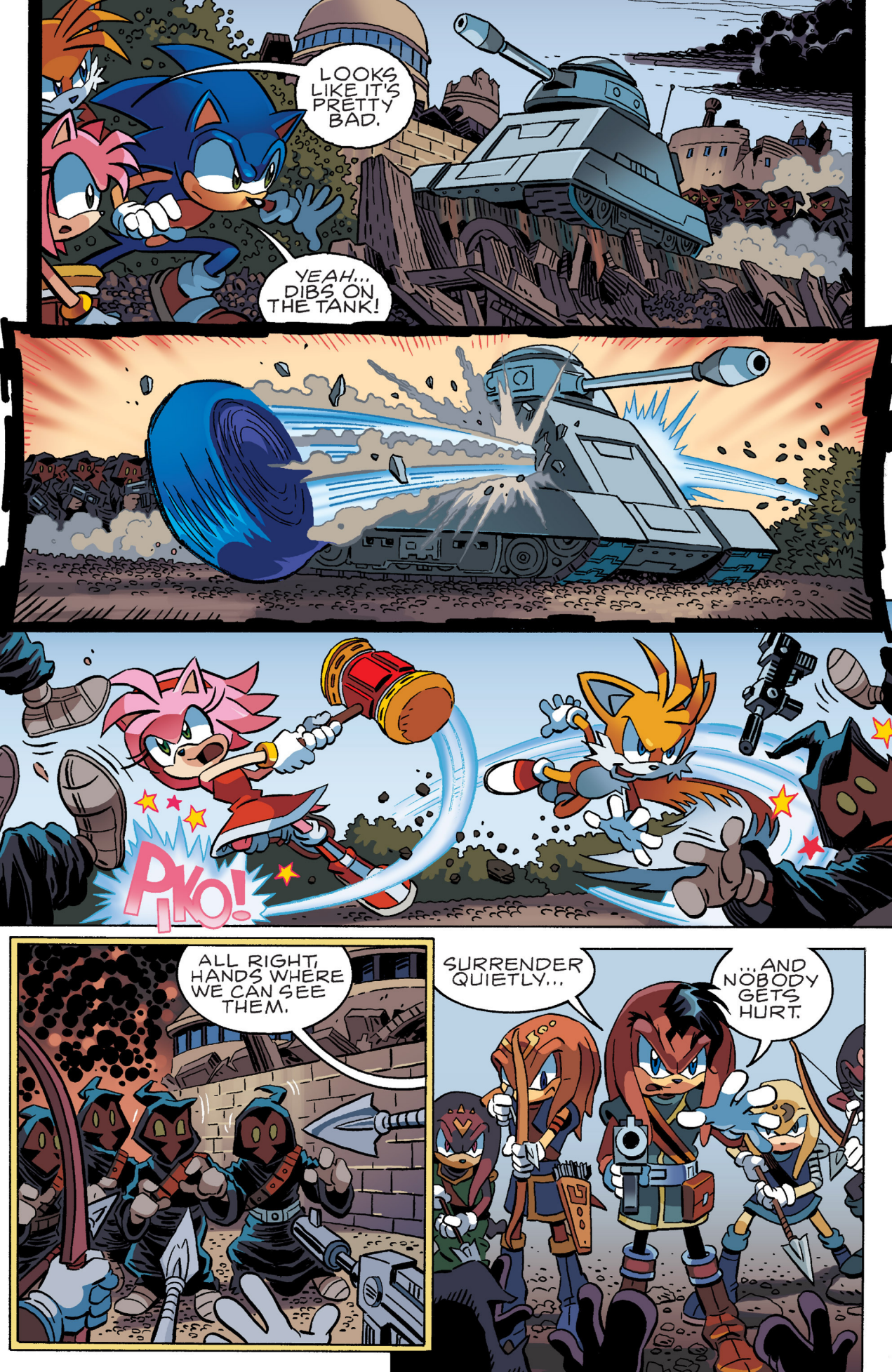

THREE DAYS LATER...
OH, BOY... THE ECHIDNAS ARE UNDER ATTACK. KNUCKLES IS NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT.
THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS! HE KEEPS PUTTING OTHERS IN DANGER JUST TO SLOW US DOWN! * NOW THE DEATH EGG IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN, AND THE LAST OF THE ECHIDNAS ARE SUFFERING!
NOBODY EVER SAID EGGMAN HAD CLASS.
*STH #239.
WE'LL CATCH UP TO THE DOC LATER. TAKE US IN FOR A LANDING, TAILS! TIME TO DISH OUT SOME HEROICS, TEAM-FIGHTERS-STYLE!
WHOA!

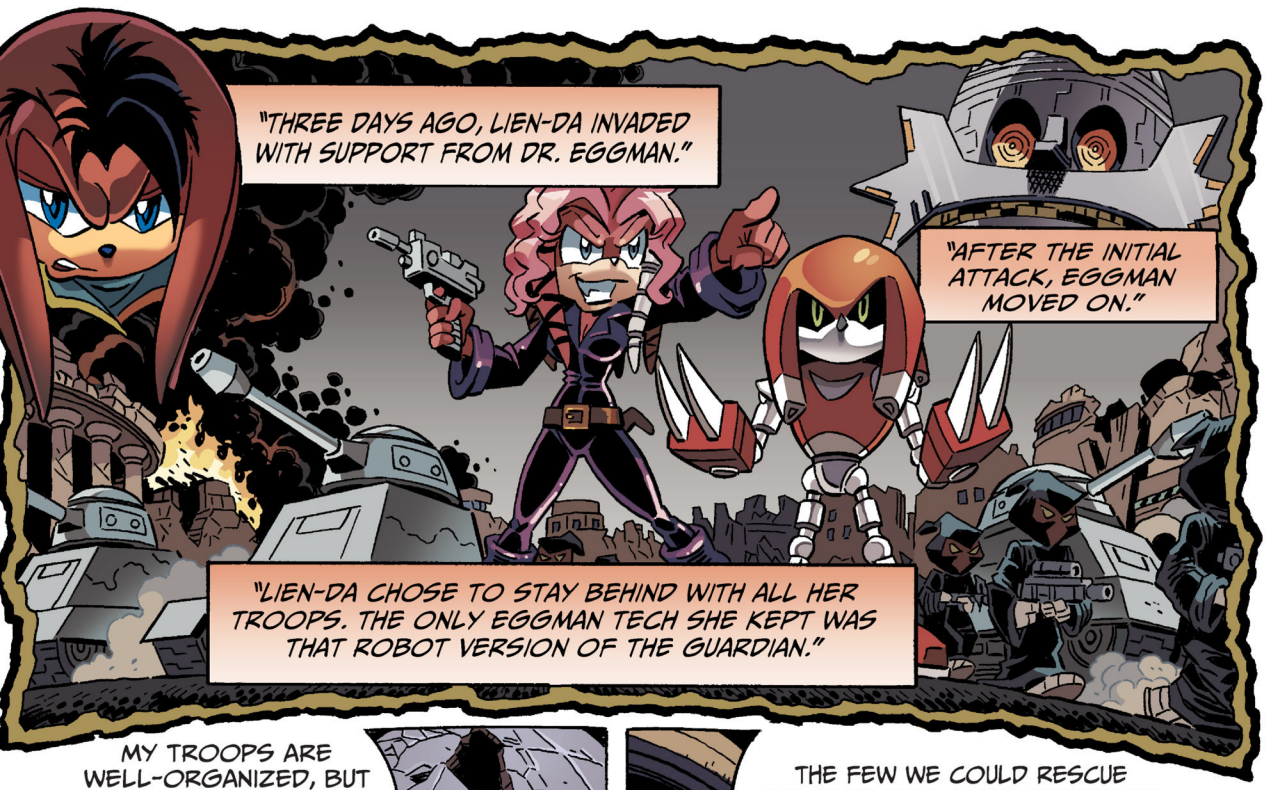
OH, CUTE! NOW THERE'S A METAL KNUCKLES!
AT LEAST THE DOC IS GIVING ME A VARIETY OF THINGS TO SMASH!
SHHING!
SSHING!
SKKOW!
SONIC!
WELL! NOW... THAT WAS JUST EMBAR-RASSING...
CLANG!
WHOA! STOP WRECKING MY PLANE!

PIKO!
HE HIT THE FUEL TANK! T-PUP, SEE IF YOU CAN STEM THE FUEL LOSS WHILE I LAND US!
YIP!
BROMPF!
KKRSSH


OOGH...
Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
...ANY LANDING YOU CAN WALK AWAY FROM...
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH...UGH...
HOW BAD IS IT?
WE'RE NOT LEAVING THE ISLAND ANY TIME SOON.
BUT WITH OUR TRACKER ON THE DEATH EGG, WE WON'T HAVE TROUBLE FINDING IT AGAIN.*
T-PUP CAN HANDLE MOST OF THE REPAIRS AND KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS WHILE WE CHECK THE SITUATION HERE IN THE RUINS, RIGHT, BOY?
YIP-YIP!
*STH #238.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A RESIDENTIAL AREA UNDER LOCK-DOWN UP AHEAD. WE SHOULD GET AN IDEA ON HOW BAD THINGS HAVE GOTTEN.


LOOKS LIKE IT'S PRETTY BAD.
YEAH... DIBS ON THE TANK!
PIKO!
ALL RIGHT, HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM.
SURRENDER QUIETLY...
...AND NOBODY GETS HURT.

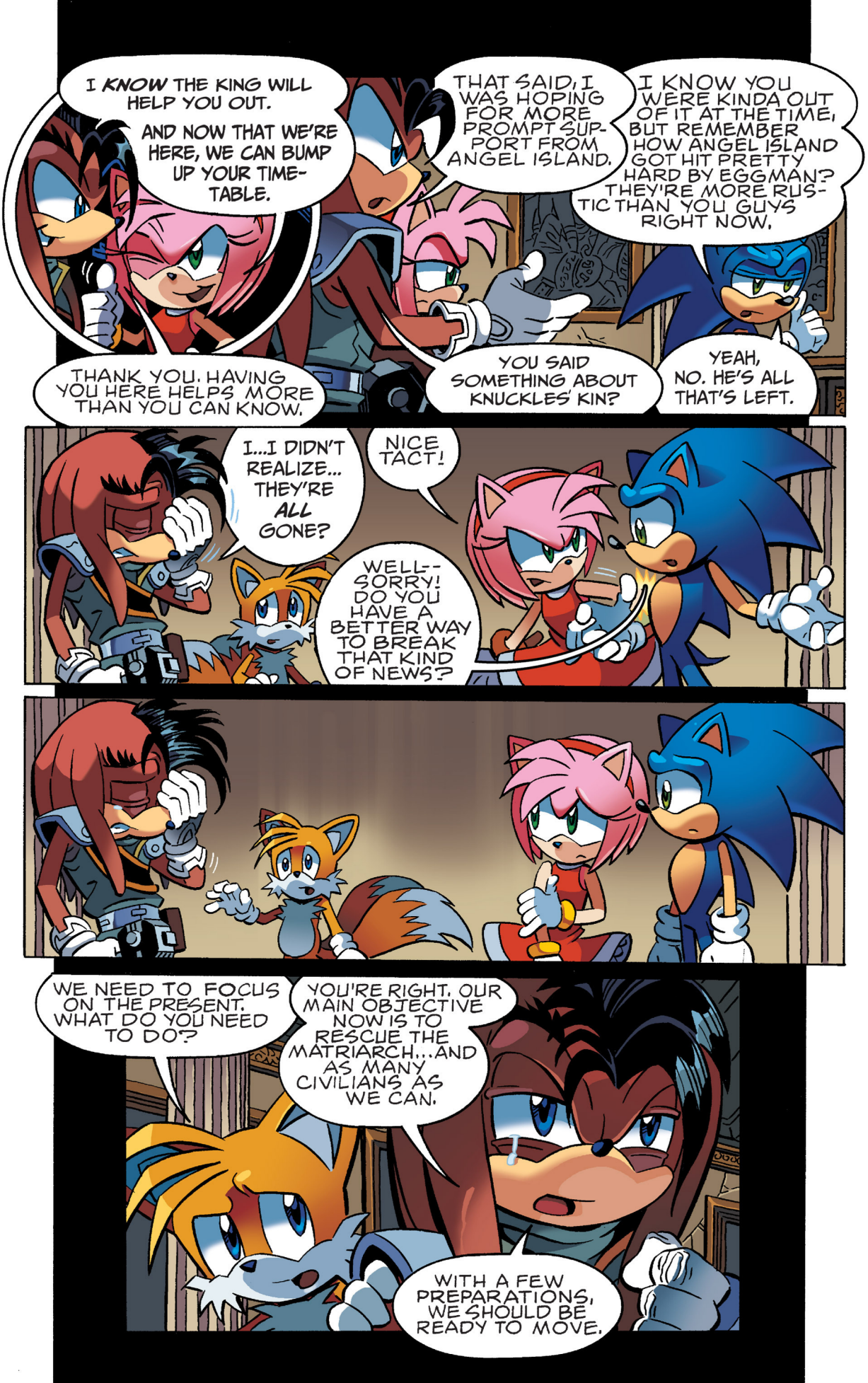
HEY! REMINGTON, RIGHT?
YES. YOU NEED NO INTRODUCTION, SONIC. THANKS FOR BEATING US TO THE PUNCH.
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A PLAN FOR THE TANK.
NO PROB.
IT'S WHAT TEAM FIGHTERS IS ALL ABOUT.
HI! I'M TAILS!
GIVE IT A REST!
I'M AMY ROSE.
IT'S A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH ANGEL ISLAND FOR DAYS TO NO AVAIL...
...BUT I'LL HAPPILY TAKE ALL THE HELP I CAN GET.
ER...ANYONE BESIDES KNUCKLES MIGHT BE HARD TO COME BY, REMMY. WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?
STABLE UP UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO.
THE VICTIMS OF THE DAY OF TRANSIT HAD ALL GOTTEN TOGETHER AND MADE A FUNCTIONING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THOSE WHO LEFT LIEN-DA.
A HANDFUL OF SURVIVING TRIBESMEN HERE HELPED THE REST OF US DEAL WITH OUR MORE... RUSTIC ENVIRONMENT.
AND MY TROOPS HAVE DONE THEIR BEST MAINTAINING PEACE AND KEEPING ORDER.
THINGS WERE GOING WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

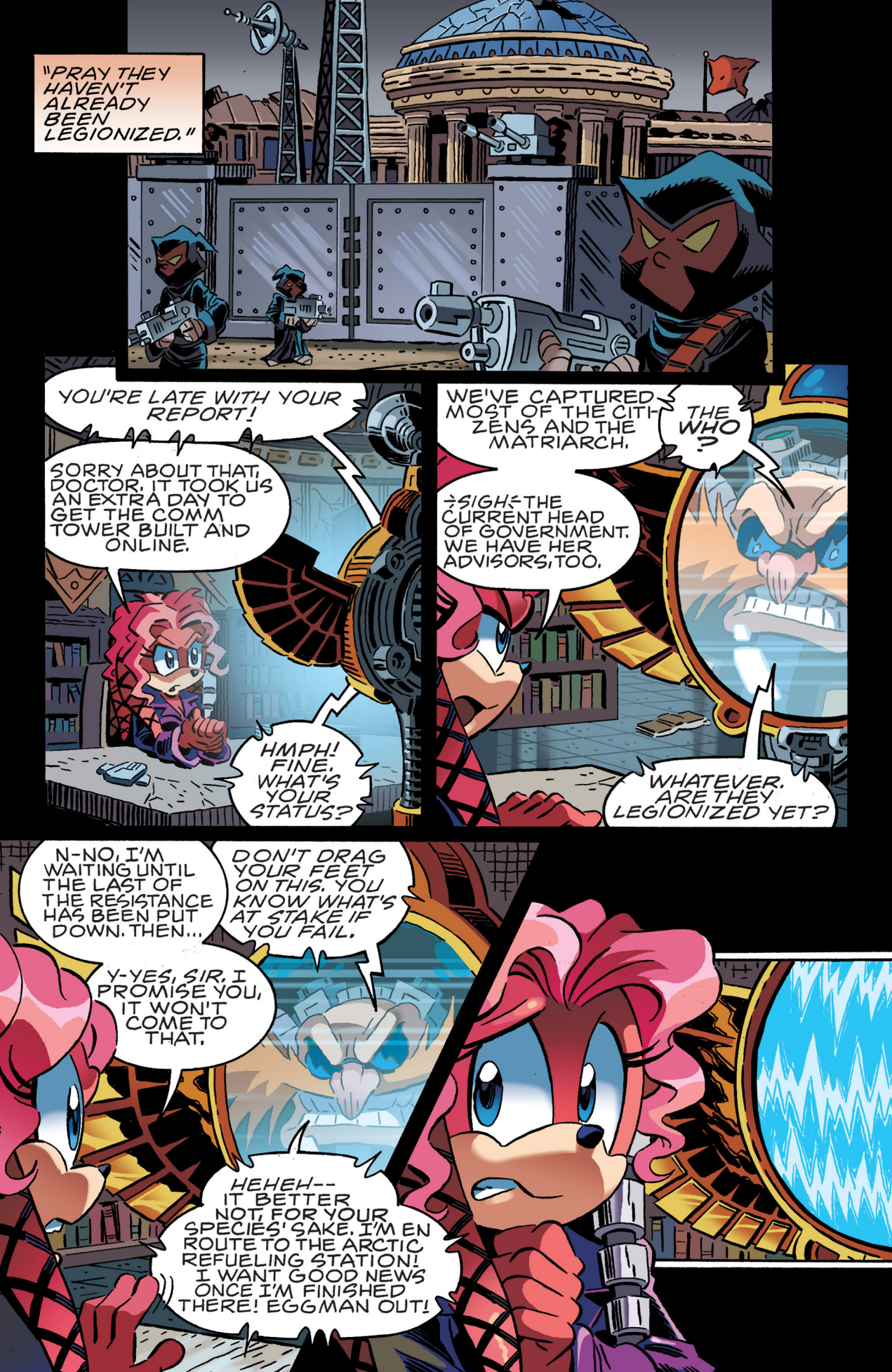

"THREE DAYS AGO, LIEN-DA INVADED WITH SUPPORT FROM DR. EGGMAN."
"AFTER THE INITIAL ATTACK, EGGMAN MOVED ON."
"LIEN-DA CHOSE TO STAY BEHIND WITH ALL HER TROOPS. THE ONLY EGGMAN TECH SHE KEPT WAS THAT ROBOT VERSION OF THE GUARDIAN."

MY TROOPS ARE WELL-ORGANIZED, BUT WE COULDN'T STAND AGAINST THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER. THE ENEMY CAPTURED THE MATRIARCH AND MOST OF THE CITIZENS.

THE FEW WE COULD RESCUE ARE SECURED IN THAT RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE WE MET. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO LIBERATE MORE WHILE TAKING DOWN ENEMY TROOPS WHERE WE CAN. OUR BASE CAMP IS HERE IN THIS THEATER.

WE SAW YOUR DEFENSES. THEY'RE GOOD, BUT THEY WON'T HOLD AGAINST THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.
I KNOW. WE'VE BEEN ORGANIZING AN ESCAPE TO THE MAINLAND, AND WE PLAN TO HIDE THE CITIZENS IN THE MERCIAN FORESTS AND APPEAL TO THE KING.


I KNOW THE KING WILL HELP YOU OUT.
AND NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, WE CAN BUMP UP YOUR TIME-TABLE.
THAT SAID, I WAS HOPING FOR MORE PROMPT SUPPORT FROM ANGEL ISLAND.
I KNOW YOU WERE KINDA OUT OF IT AT THE TIME, BUT REMEMBER HOW ANGEL ISLAND GOT HIT PRETTY HARD BY EGGMAN? THEY'RE MORE RUSTIC THAN YOU GUYS RIGHT NOW.
THANK YOU. HAVING YOU HERE HELPS MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW.
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT KNUCKLES' KIN?
YEAH, NO. HE'S ALL THAT'S LEFT.
I...I DIDN'T REALIZE... THEY'RE ALL GONE?
NICE TACT!
WELL- SORRY! DO YOU HAVE A BETTER WAY TO BREAK THAT KIND OF NEWS?
WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE PRESENT. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?
YOU'RE RIGHT. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO RESCUE THE MATRIARCH...AND AS MANY CIVILIANS AS WE CAN.
WITH A FEW PREPARATIONS, WE SHOULD BE READY TO MOVE.


"PRAY THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN LEGIONIZED."
YOU'RE LATE WITH YOUR REPORT!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, DOCTOR. IT TOOK US AN EXTRA DAY TO GET THE COMM TOWER BUILT AND ONLINE.
HMPH! FINE. WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
WE'VE CAPTURED MOST OF THE CITIZENS AND THE MATRIARCH.
THE WHO?
SIGH THE CURRENT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE HER ADVISORS, TOO.
WHATEVER. ARE THEY LEGIONIZED YET?
N-NO, I'M WAITING UNTIL THE LAST OF THE RESISTANCE HAS BEEN PUT DOWN. THEN...
DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET ON THIS. YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE IF YOU FAIL.
Y-YES, SIR. I PROMISE YOU, IT WON'T COME TO THAT.
HEHEH-- IT BETTER NOT, FOR YOUR SPECIES' SAKE. I'M EN ROUTE TO THE ARCTIC REFUELING STATION! I WANT GOOD NEWS ONCE I'M FINISHED THERE! EGGMAN OUT!

ATTENTION, FELLOW ECHIDNAS! I'VE JUST FINISHED SPEAKING WITH DR. EGGMAN. YOUR FUTURE IS LOOKING BRIGHT!
SOON YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
SOON WE WILL NO LONGER BE DIVIDED...
...BY DISTANCE, FACTIONS OR BELIEFS.
SOON ALL ECHIDNA KIND WILL BE UNITED UNDER MY LEADER-SHIP.
I WILL BE YOUR MATRI-ARCH.
I WILL LEAD US TO A NEW AGE OF PROSPERITY.
I WILL BE THE ONE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
YOUR KIND HAS ALWAYS SEWN DIS-CORD IN OUR SOCIETY.
WE WERE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE UNTIL YOU INVADED. IT'S KNUCKLES WHO WILL PROTECT US...
...AND I KNOW MY SON WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS.

OH, YES! THE GUARDIAN! THE ONE WHO COULDN'T STOP YOU FROM BEING ENSLAVED!
THE ONE WHO WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND ON THE DAY OF TRANSIT?
THE ONE WHO HASN'T SHOWN HIMSELF HERE?
AND WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO YOU? YOU MAY BE MATRIARCH, BUT YOU'VE HAD NO GOVERNING EXPERIENCE. YOU WERE CHOSEN SOLELY FOR YOUR CONNECTION TO KNUCKLES!
I PUT MY FAITH IN THE GUARDIAN WHO FOUGHT EGGMAN INSTEAD OF ALLYING WITH HIM. I PUT MY FAITH IN THE GUARDIAN THAT PROTECTED OUR SOCIETY, AND NOT THE COWARDS WHO TERRORIZED US, FELL APART IN THEIR OWN CIVIL WAR, AND HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A HANDFUL OF FANATICS AND FLUNKIES.
YOU'RE LUCKY I NEED YOU FOR YOUR STATUS, YOU IGNORANT WOMAN.
YOU WOULDN'T BE HALF AS POMPOUS IF YOU KNEW KNUCKLES WAS--
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

WOO-HOO!!!
MOST CIVILIANS ARE IN THE PRISON EGGS IN THE COURT-YARD!
ZAKK!
YOU AND YOUR MEN GET THEM OUT! WE'LL COVER YOU!
TANK! I CALLED IT!
AW...
HEAD FOR THE HOLE IN THE WALL! WE'LL COVER YOU!

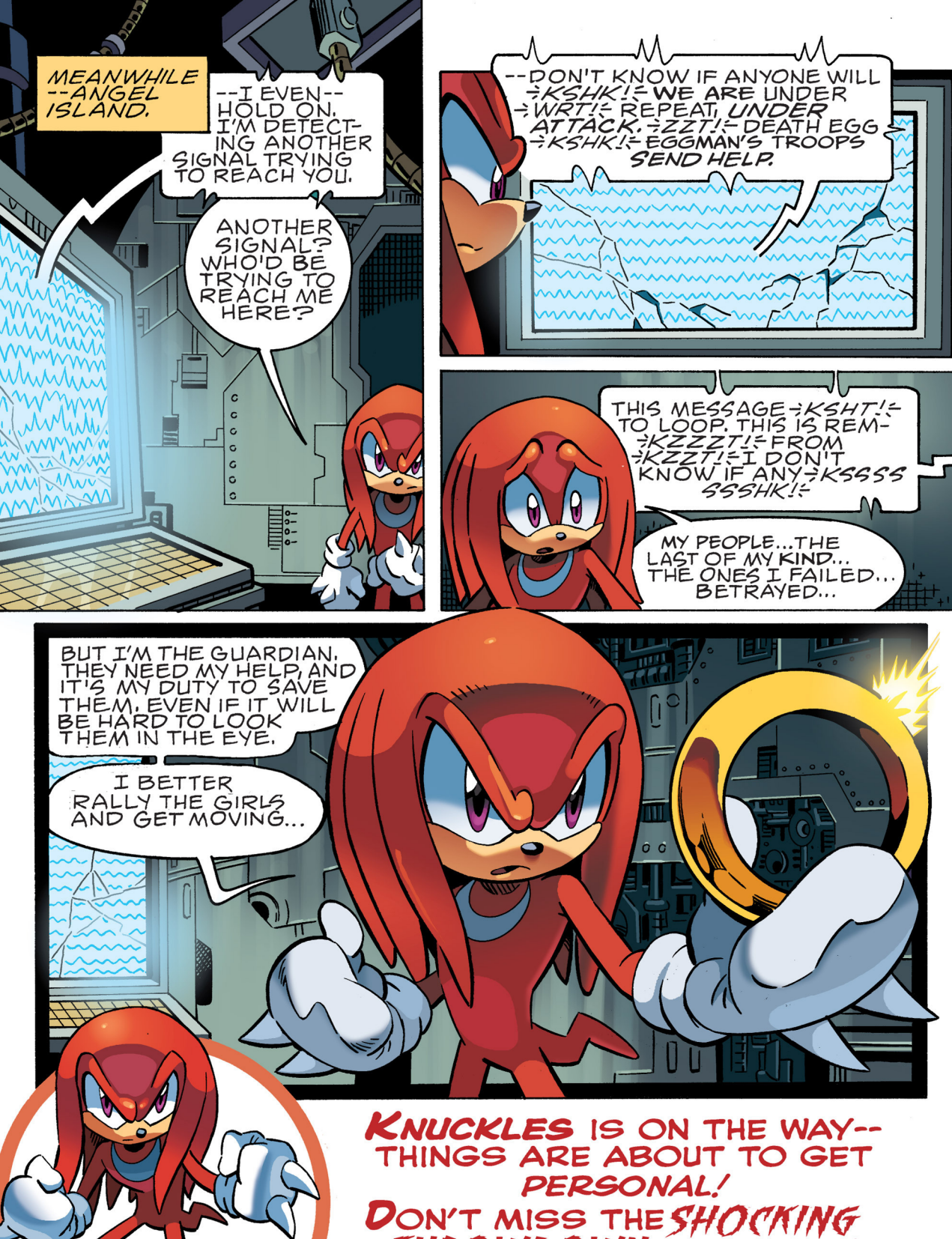
THE MATRIARCH AND HER ADVISORS AREN'T AMONG THEM, SIR.
THEY MUST BE INSIDE.
TAKE YOUR SQUAD AND THE SURVIVORS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THEN STRAIGHT TO THE DOCKS. WE'LL COVER YOU HERE AND CATCH UP.
YES, SIR!
SKA CHOOM
SOMEBODY TAKE OUT THOSE GUNS!
KER-ZAK!
YOU HEARD THE MAN!
?!
PIKO!
THESE GUYS JUST AREN'T THE SAME AS FIGHTING BADNIKS...
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL THIS TIME!
KRAK!

THE MATRIARCH AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS MUST BE INSIDE. WE NEED TO PUSH DEEPER.
MIGHT AS WELL KICK ALL THE BUTTS WHILE WE'RE HERE...
...RIGHT?
SONIC'S HERE? YOU'RE SURE?
YES, MA'AM!
EGGMAN'S SETTING ME UP TO FAIL...
DID WE GET THE BUILDING'S DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE?
J-JUST THIS MORNING...
THEN ACTIVATE THEM! WE CANNOT FAIL THIS!
Y-Y-YES, M-M-MA'AM!
UH... IS THAT A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?
YOW!
BAD THING!

KZZT
KZZT
IT'S A PARALYZING DEFENSIVE GRID. EGGMAN'S ARMY HAS A BUILT-IN RESISTANCE!
I'VE GOT MY OWN RESISTANCE RIGHT HERE!
PIKO!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, SONIC. THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
LADY, ANY TIME EGGMAN OR HIS GOONS ARE OPPRESSING ANYBODY, IT BECOMES...
...MY BUSINESS!

WHOA!
KZZT!
SINCE WHEN COULD YOU DO THAT?!
WHEN EGGMAN RE-BUILT ME, DID YOU THINK HE'D JUST STOP AT MY PRETTY FACE?
I'VE GOT TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO LET YOU RUIN THINGS NOW! YOU'RE *DEAD*, HEDGEHOG!
KZZT!
KZZT!
CRACK!
YOU'VE GOT A NEAT TRICK, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT...
...BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP ME!

MAYBE NOT...
...BUT METAL KNUCKLES SHOULD SWING THINGS IN MY FAVOR.
THOOM
OH, YEAH. THAT MIGHT MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR ME.
KRAK!


MEANWHILE --ANGEL ISLAND.
--I EVEN-- HOLD ON. I'M DETECTING ANOTHER SIGNAL TRYING TO REACH YOU.
ANOTHER SIGNAL? WHO'D BE TRYING TO REACH ME HERE?
--DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE WILL ÷KSHK!÷ WE ARE UNDER ÷WRT!÷ REPEAT, UNDER ATTACK. ÷ZZT!÷ DEATH EGG ÷KSHK!÷ EGGMAN'S TROOPS SEND HELP.
THIS MESSAGE ÷KSHT!÷ TO LOOP. THIS IS REM- ÷KZZZT!÷ FROM ÷KZZT!÷ I DON'T KNOW IF ANY ÷KSSSS SSSHK!÷
MY PEOPLE...THE LAST OF MY KIND... THE ONES I FAILED... BETRAYED...
BUT I'M THE GUARDIAN. THEY NEED MY HELP, AND IT'S MY DUTY TO SAVE THEM. EVEN IF IT WILL BE HARD TO LOOK THEM IN THE EYE.
I BETTER RALLY THE GIRLS AND GET MOVING...

KNUCKLES IS ON THE WAY-- THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET *PERSONAL!*

DON'T MISS THE *SHOCKING THROWDOWN* NEXT TIME!

UNTIL THEN, CHECK OUT *MORE CHAOTIX ACTION* IN ***SONIC UNIVERSE*** AND DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ***SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE*** and ***GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!***

the SONIC SPIN

it's commentary of the endangered "editorial" species!

ECHIDNAS! ECHIDNAS EVERYWHERE!

Welcome back, Sonic fans, to the first installment of the four-part "ENDANGERED SPECIES" epic! That's right, kids, this winter is all about the rad red, as we witness the most shocking, game-changing story arc that Echidna-kind has ever faced!

And that's not all! Over in our sister title, **Sonic Universe**, we launch into a brand new story arc this month featuring Knux's bud's the **Chaotix** as they track down their missing teammates **Mighty** and **Ray**! It's the story you've all been waiting for, and it's ONLY in Sonic Universe #46-49, "CHAOTIX QUEST"!

THE SEARCH FOR MIGHTY AND RAY IS ON! JOIN TEAM CHAOTIX IN THE BRAND NEW-- FOUR ISSUE STORY ARC, "CHAOTIX QUEST" HAPPENING NOW IN SONIC UNIVERSE!

For more Knuckles action be sure to check out the Knuckles Archives Graphic Novel series, and while you're at it, Sonic Universe vol3 Graphic Novel features the titanic "Knuckles Returns" story arc! All these great comics and graphic novels to choose from – it's a rockin' red read!

CHECK OUT KNUCKLES' VERY OWN STORY ARC IN SONIC UNIVERSE VOLUME 3, AVAILABLE NOW AT A FINE BOOK STORE NEAR YOU AND FOR DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ON YOUR FAVORITE MOBILE DEVICE!

SEE YA NEXT MONTH! - Paul

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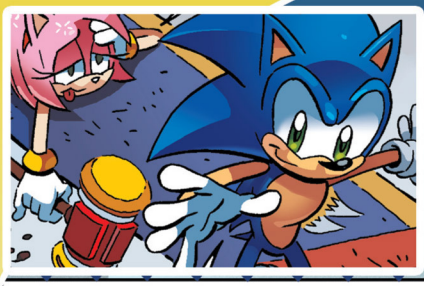


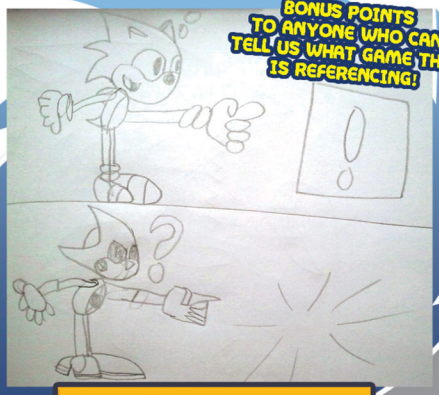
SONIC-GRAMS FAN ART

FAN FUNNIES!

Will K. sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

Melissa J.S. from Leicester, UK

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN TELL US WHAT GAME THIS IS REFERENCING!



Jaxx Howard. sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

Elizabeth S. sent to sonic @archiecomics.com

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OFF PANEL

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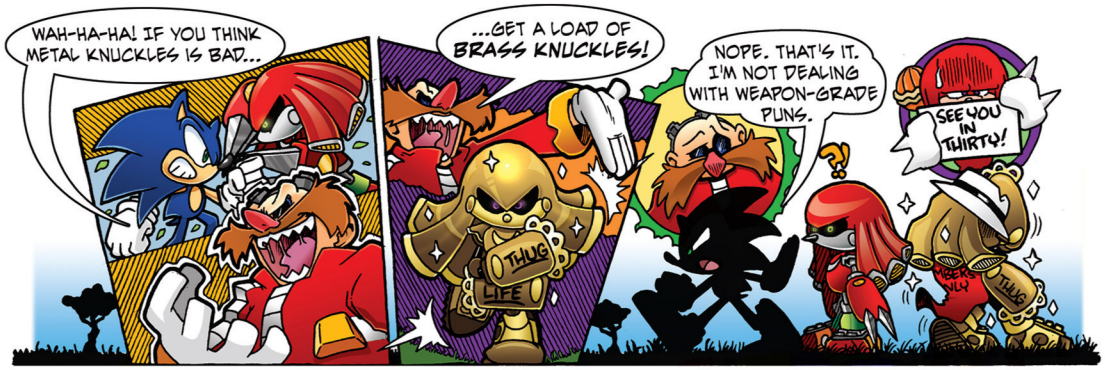
COLORS: ALEAH BAKER


WAH-HA-HA! IF YOU THINK METAL KNUCKLES IS BAD...
...GET A LOAD OF BRASS KNUCKLES!
NOPE. THAT'S IT. I'M NOT DEALING WITH WEAPON-GRADE PUNS.
SEE YOU IN THIRTY!
THUG LIFE
THUG

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SONIC-GRAMS

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LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED LETTERS TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS ARE APPRECIATED!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
Hi! I have always been a huge fan of you guys since issue 187, I think (and I'm 14)!

'Twas a fine time to be a subscriber indeed! Though, to be fair, it's always a fine time to be a subscriber! :)

I have a few questions:
1)I saw a few fights between Tails and Speedy, but I would like to see more, actual important battles between them (with Tails winning at the end) because I think they can be huge rivals and Tails is my #1 favorite character!

You haven't seen the last of Speedy! Be sure to check out Tails and Speedy's most recent tussle in Sonic Universe #35, available now for digital download! Plugplugplug

2) Will there be any love relationships between Tails and Cream? This could be really nice! (Cream's my #2).

Tails is a bit preoccupied with his role in Team Fighters for any romance, same goes for Cream who is helping out with Team Freedom. As for any love interests for the two of them, wait and see!

3) Will the Suppression Squad ever return?

Their whereabouts are currently unknown. No doubt they're plotting their next move! After all, they still have some unfinished business with a certain green hedgehog!

Well, thank you for everything, guys! I hope you can answer me (I'm a huge fan!)

Tails's #1 fan,
Nader D.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

Thanks for writing in, Nader!

Yo Sonic-Grams!

Howdy pardner!

I started reading Sonic comics when I was ten. When I first started I was so into it. Also I love Tracy Yardley's Sonic artwork.

So do we! Tracy did all the covers for this story arc, plus pencils on the Sonic Universe title!

Well here are some qustions I really wanted to ask.

"Ready all canons, open fire!"

1) Is there going to be a story when Scourge comes back?

Scourge has returned! Download the Scourge Lockdown arc in Sonic Universe issues 29-32 for your mobile device to see how Scourge escaped zone jail! He's currently plotting in secret with the destructix -- what his next move will be is anyone's guess!

2) When is Sally going to come back I miss her?

Resolution is coming!

3) Lastly, what's with Thrash is he going to come back in a big way?

He certainly is! Stick around and see what Thrash is up to as Endangered Species continues! You will not wanna miss this!

Well, that's it. Keep on jucin!

Daniel George,
from Florida

Thanks, Daniel, the juicing will continue as planned!

That's all for this month, folks! The story continues as the battle in the Echidna homeland reaches a whole new level of chaos! Come back in 30 for next thrilling installment of Endangered Species!

See y'all next month!

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THRASH AT THE DEVIL!
TERROR IS UNLEASHED ON THE ECHIDNA HOMELAND WHEN THRASH THE DEVIL MAKES AN UNEXPECTED RETURN IN
"ENDANGERED SPECIES" PART 2 (of 4)
ON SALE THE WEEK OF 1/2/12

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CHAOTIX QUEST
PART 2 (of 4)
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